No Risks, No Rewards
Ecclesiastes 11:1-6

Introduction:
All too often we play it safe, but in Ecclesiastes Solomon tells us that we to not play it safe but to take risks. If we don’t take risks then we run the risk of no rewards. Ministry is just like that, when we take a risk then we will receive rewards. Jesus took risks, the disciples took risks and they all received rewards and now it is our turn to take risks and receive rewards.

Scripture:
Cast your bread upon the waters, For you will find it after many days. 2 Give a serving to seven, and also to eight, For you do not know what evil will be on the earth. 3 If the clouds are full of rain, They empty themselves upon the earth; And if a tree falls to the south or the north, In the place where the tree falls, there it shall lie.. 4 He who observes the wind will not sow, And he who regards the clouds will not reap. 5 As you do not know what is the way of the wind, Or how the bones grow in the womb of her who is with child, So you do not know the works of God who makes everything. 6 In the morning sow your seed, And in the evening do not withhold your hand; For you do not know which will prosper, Either this or that, Or whether both alike will be good.

Key Points:
1. Diversify your investments (11:1-2)
2. Seize your opportunities (11:3-6)

Outline:
1. Diversify your investments (11:1-2)
   a. Diversify means- spread out; branch out
   b. What are our investments?
      i. We are invested in the lost of this world
      ii. We are invested in the Gospel that was proclaimed by Jesus Christ.
   c. The word bread in these verse refers to grain.
      i. Solomon is telling the people to send out the grain in several ships.
         (1) In other words we are not supposed to put all our eggs in one basket.
         (2) Just as they put their grain in several ships so should we use many different avenues to do ministry.
            (a) Youth ministry
            (b) children’s ministry
            (c) outreach
            (d) Community picnics here at the church
      (3) We need to take a risk when we do ministry.
         (a) When we stay within our walls we are playing it safe.
         (b) When we step outside we are taking a risk a step in Faith so
(4) What risks will we face?
   (a) Ridicule
   (b) Persecution
      (i) 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. 12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.(Matthew 5:10-12, nkjv))

2. Seize your opportunities (11:3-6)
   a. According to these verses we need a back up plan.
      i. Whatever we schedule if it is outside needs to have an alternate plan.
      ii. We need to seize the opportunities that we have to reach out.
   b. We need to seize every opportunity to invest in reaching those who know not Christ.
   c. There is no time better than the present to step out in faith. So stop procrastinating! Be diligent constantly. If we wait until we “have time” to do something we never will.
   d. The “perfect opportunity” begins now—while we still can.
   e. Our scripture finishes up with “Sew you seed.”
      i. We are to sew the seed of Christ and leave the rest up to HIM for he is the only that is in control.

Conclusion:
We don’t know what tomorrow holds so we need to seize the day that we are given to invest in the things of God and that is to invest in ministry and to invest in the lost. Is God leading you into a certain ministry then act on it today, Is God calling you to HIM then act on it today. Not sure what God wants you to do then come and pray about it Let today be the day that we invest in the lost and seize the opportunities that we are given to do that.